

REMARKS

Claims 1-40 were pending in this application, of which claims 1, 2 and 39 were rejected, and an objection was made to claims 3-38 and 40. Acknowledgement is made with appreciation of the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-38 and 40. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-2 and 4-40 will remain pending in this application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) and objection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Claim Objection

An objection was made to claims 3-38 and 40 as dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Office Action indicates that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. This objection is overcome with the incorporation of the allowable subject matter of dependent claim 3 into independent claims 1 and 2 as discussed immediately below.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mitchell (US Pat. No 3,801,935) in view of De Vries (US Pat. No. 3,659,231).

Applicants submit that this rejection should be withdrawn in light of the amendment to claims 1 and 2. By this Amendment, claim 3 has been canceled, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 2. This places claims 1 and 2 in immediately allowable condition. Moreover, claim 39 previously was amended to depend from claims 1 and 2. Therefore claim 39 is submitted as immediately allowable. (Claims 4 and 16 likewise now also are amended to depend from claims 1 and 2, with the same result,

allowability.) Therefore, Applicants respectfully urge that the asserted rejection over the alleged combinations of Mitchell and De Vries is overcome, and claims 1-2 and 4-40 are in condition for allowance.

Lastly, mention is made of page 18, fourth paragraph of Applicants' Response of April 23, 2003. There, it was pointed out that the original scope of claim 2 was unchanged by that paper. Similarly, the original scope of claim 3, as now incorporated into claim 2 remains unchanged, namely, not narrowed. This means that present claim 2 retains the scope of original claim 3.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment and the above remarks obviate the outstanding rejection(s) and objection(s) in this case, thereby placing the application in condition for immediate allowance. Allowance of this application is earnestly solicited. If any fees under 35 C. F. R. § 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the Fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033216M534833.

Respectfully submitted,

Signature:



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